

CIA/OGCR /PN 61.2684775 ITEM 008 UNCLASSIFIED--PRC CITY BRIEF  
SHANGHAI

CIA JUL75

01 OF 01

CIA/OGCR PN 61.2684/75

ITEM 008

# PRC CITY BRIEF

## *Shanghai 上海*



10

CIA/OGCR/GD  
PN 61.2684/75

## SHANGHAI (Shang-hai)

(pronounced shong-hi)

Chinese romanized system  
of spelling:

Shanghai

Meaning in Chinese:

up from the sea

Location:

31°14'N 121°28'E  
(approx. latitude of  
Jacksonville, Florida)

Elevation:

50 feet above sea level

Population:

11,000,000 in municipality;  
5,600,000 in built-up area  
(Total municipality comprises  
2,390 square miles and includes  
ten rural counties)

Climate:

Jan    April    July    OctMean daily maximum  
temperature (°F)

47        67        91        75

Mean daily minimum  
temperature (°F)

32        49        75        56

Mean number of days  
with precipitation

10        13        11        9

Mean monthly  
precipitation (inches)

1.9        3.6        5.8        2.9

SHANGHAI

General

Shanghai, once a bastion of Western capitalism as well as the birthplace of the Chinese Communist Party, is today China's largest city, her most important port, and her premier center of trade and industry. Originally a fishing village, the city was built atop mudflats along the winding Huang-p'u Chiang (Whangpoo River) a few miles south of the estuary of the Yangtze. Today the more than 11 million people in the metropolitan area of more than 2,000 square miles -- about half of them living in a congested urban core of 54 square miles -- comprise the largest metropolis on the Asian mainland and one of the largest in the world.

Shanghai is China's most westernized city in appearance with its downtown section along the Bund -- the wide and bustling boulevard along the west bank of the Huang-p'u -- presenting an impressive skyline of tall buildings built to house the banks, clubs, hotels, and offices of a bygone day. The facade is limited, however, and to the west, north, and south stretch miles of typical Chinese urban development -- low crowded buildings, small shops, and busy markets. Along much of the waterfront and in outlying areas are sizable industrial districts, in part consisting of pre-1949 factories but now augmented by more recently built installations. Much of this newer development is surrounded by workers apartment buildings.

An enormous amount of commerce moves to and from Shanghai by ocean vessel, river craft, and two railroads -- one to the northwest to Nan-ching and the populous North China region, and the second, south to Hang-chou and the urban centers of South China. Few of Shanghai's foreign visitors arrive by ship; most come by rail or by air. Those traveling by air land either at Hung-ch'iao International Airport, west of the city, or if on a domestic flight, at Lung-hua Airfield to the south.

The visitor can expect a climate similar to Norfolk, Virginia. Summers are hot and humid, usually with considerable rain. Winters are chilly rather than cold; many days are gray and gloomy with occasional periods of drizzle or light rain. Spring and autumn are the most comfortable seasons, when temperatures are pleasant and rain infrequent.

## History

Shanghai was flourishing as a domestic port in the mid-18th century when foreign traders were first attracted to the city by its location on a tributary only 14 miles upstream from the mouth of the Yangtze, a river navigable by oceangoing vessels several hundreds of miles into the interior. The site was ideal both for development of international trade and for tapping the vast internal market of China. After Western merchants gained access to several Chinese ports, including Shanghai, by the 1842 Treaty of Nanking, it was only a few years until half of China's international trade -- previously dominated by Canton -- passed through the city on the mudflats. From then on growth of the city was rapid and its importance assured.

Foreign-administered enclaves dominated Shanghai's business and commercial activity for the next century. Great Britain had acquired a concession of land to the south of the confluence of the Huang-p'u Chiang and Su-chou Ho (Soochow Creek) in 1843. It was subsequently expanded and combined with a similar U.S. tract north of the Su-chou Ho to form the International Settlement. France was also granted a trading concession, south of the International Settlement and north of the Old Chinese Town. Developed solely for the operations of foreign merchants, the concessions were ruled by foreign law and defended by foreign troops and gun-boats. Despite the foreign presence -- which attained a maximum population of 60,000 in 1936 -- the population of the concessions remained overwhelmingly Chinese.

While Western merchants prospered and industry and commerce flourished, Shanghai was spawning vast urban slums, discontent, strikes, and revolts against foreign rule. Another and more publicized face of Shanghai also was seen -- that of an uninhabited city whose appellations "Paris of the East" and "Adventurer's Paradise" fitted her seaport bawdiness and exuberant night life, popular with sailors, tourists, and foreign residents alike. Opium dens and brothels, run by crime syndicates, flourished openly. Sailors settled their feuds in "Blood Alley," near the waterfront.

The end of the old era of Shanghai began with Japanese occupation of the city in the 1930s and, following a brief revival under Chinese Nationalist rule after World War II, closed with PRC occupation and control of the city in 1949. Since then, Shanghai has been slowly rid of its crime, prostitution, drug addiction, and other vice that had festered for more than a century. Today it is steeped in Maoist puritanism; night life is nonexistent and neon signs extol only Mao and Communist virtues.

Present-Day Shanghai

Although 24 years of Communist rule have little altered the Western appearance of Shanghai's urban core, the monuments to foreign rule have been transformed in function. Banks now house offices of the municipal government; clubs of foreign businessmen quarter foreign seamen; "Blood Alley" is a street of quiet shops; the race track is a park; the golf course a zoo; and the villas of the Western entrepreneurs are now nurseries, playgrounds, and hospitals.

The Bund, now termed Chung-shan-lu, still remains as one of the great streets of the world and the hub of Shanghai banking and commerce. A good view of the Bund is from the upper floors of the Shanghai Hotel, north of Su-chou Ho. The former United Kingdom Consulate, a large compound that now houses assorted stores and offices, is to the south across the Garden Bridge, at the north end of the Bund. Two other landmarks along the Bund are the 180-room Peace Hotel, formerly known as the Palace Hotel, and the Customs Building. The Peace Hotel, the most popular hostelry in the city for foreign guests, still shows signs of its former grandeur despite a faded facade and worn carpets. Its ornate dining room stretches the full length of the top floor and provides a commanding view of the Bund and the bustling boat traffic in the Huang-p'u Chiang beyond. The Customs Building, a Tudor structure with a tower more than 100 feet high, is a few blocks to the south. Its tower contains an enormous clock that chimes each quarter hour to the strains of "The East is Red."

While the Bund is Shanghai's most westernized street, Nanking Road (Nan-ching-lu) is its busiest marketing artery. Extending westward from the Bund for several miles, it is lined with a variety of speciality stores, restaurants, and theaters. Both the Shanghai Number 1 Department Store and the Yung-an Department Store offer the shopper a wide range of PRC-manufactured goods. The People's Park and People's Square, occupying the area of a former race track, extend between Nanking Road and Yenan Road (Yen-an-lu) to the south. Overlooking the park and square on the north are the imposing International Hotel, formerly the Park Hotel, and the Overseas Chinese Hotel. The People's Recreation Hall is to the southeast. Built in the 1920s as the Great World entertainment center, it has several floors with galleries ringing a central courtyard. The lively entertainment of its gaudy past has been subdued, replaced by Revolutionary opera, ballet, films, and plays.

The Shanghai Industrial Exhibition, located between Nanking Road and Yenan Road several blocks west of the People's Park, is in the former Sino-Soviet People's Friendship Building, an impressive structure with a high spire. A permanent exhibit of products manufactured in Shanghai is housed in the building and other exhibits are displayed there from time to time. The Buddhist Ching-an Monastery, containing the famous Temple of Serenity, is farther west, at the intersection of Nanking Road with Fan-huang-tu-lu. The Children's Palace, an educational and recreational center, is another third of a mile beyond. The recently renovated Yu-fo Monastery, at the intersection of Kiangning Road (Chiang-ning-lu) and Anyuan Road (An-yuan-lu), contains two superb jade statues of Buddha.

The Old Chinese Town contrasts sharply with the Western appearance of the Bund and Nanking Road, predating by centuries the development of the International Settlement and French Concession. Streets are narrow and winding, and buildings are low and crowded. Although the walls that once encircled the Old Town have been removed, the oval boundary can readily be traced by the street pattern. The Yu Garden forms a pleasant enclave in the northern part of the Old Town. It contains a small lake in the center of which stands a tea house, connected to the shore by zig-zag bridges whose alignment, according to Chinese belief, foils evil spirits. Just south of the Garden is the Yu-yuan Market, comprising a dozen or so small eating establishments and nearly 100 speciality shops selling a galaxy of handicrafts and sundries. The 400-year-old City Temple is inside the market.

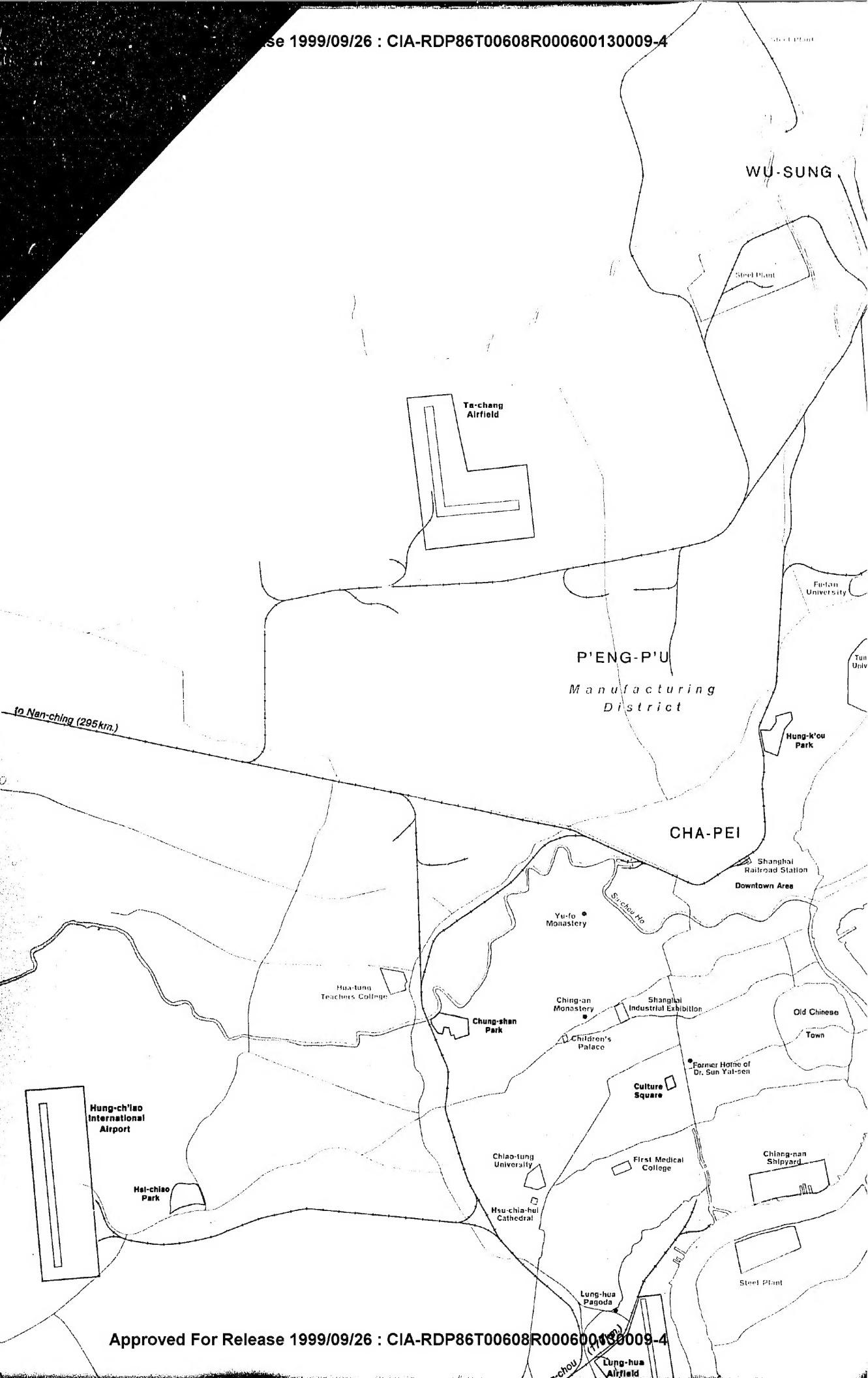
Pleasant residential neighborhoods with quiet streets and large secluded houses are found to the west of the Old Town in the former French Concession quarter. Many of the houses have been converted into institutions, including a medical college and several hospitals. Culture Square and the former home of Dr. Sun Yat-Sen, now a small museum, are located in this area.

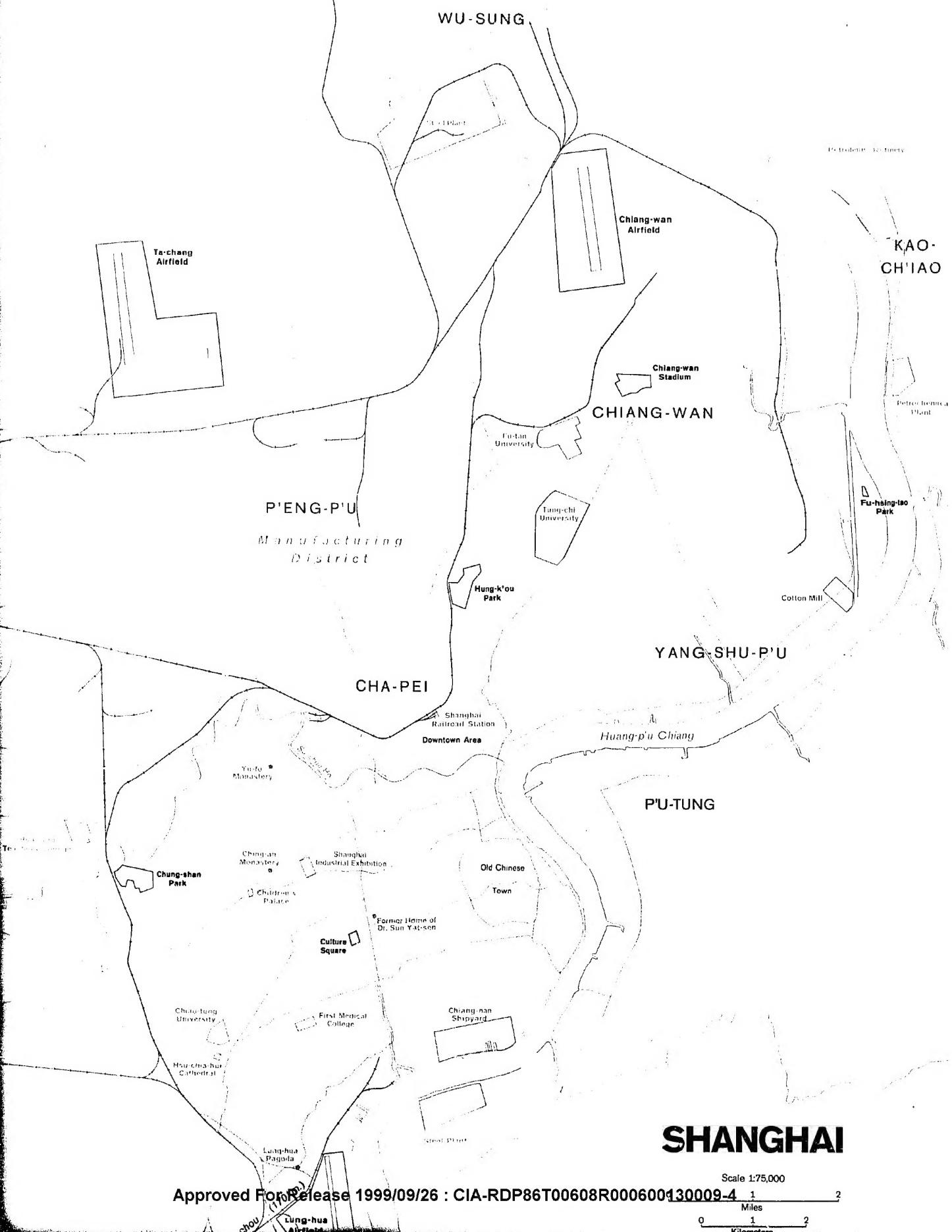
The rapid growth of Shanghai in the past 2 decades has resulted in the development of commercial, governmental, and educational complexes in outlying areas. Fu-tan University, specializing in the sciences, and T'ung-chi University, an engineering school, are located in the Chiang-wan District, some 4 miles north of the city center. The District is planned as the site of a civic center for Shanghai.

Industry

Shanghai continues to be China's leading industrial city. Emphasis has shifted from pre-eminence in light industry, particularly textiles, to a more balanced industrial establishment that includes the manufacture of iron and steel, heavy machinery, chemicals, electrical equipment, motor vehicles, tires, paper, and glassware. Much of Shanghai's industry, including iron and steel plants, petrochemical plants, shipyards, oil refineries, and textile mills, continues to be located along both banks of the Huang-p'u, between the city center and the Yangtze.

Shanghai's industrial rejuvenation has seen the development of industrial estates in outlying areas, some well away from the Huang-p'u. These estates are surrounded by sprawling housing developments comprising workers apartment buildings, shopping centers, schools, hospitals, and theaters. Min-hsing, along the Huang-p'u about 15 miles south of the city, is one of the most publicized of such industrial-residential complexes and the one most likely to be shown to visitors. It produces electrical machinery, heavy machine tools, boilers, and steam turbines. The Wu-ching chemical complex, including a coke chemical plant and a fertilizer plant, is just north of Min-hsing, also along the Huang-p'u. The much heralded P'eng-p'u manufacturing district, specializing in heavy machinery, has recently been established about 3 miles north of the Shanghai urban center.





Tai-chung  
Airfield

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(to Nan-ching (295km))

P'ENG-P'U  
Manufacturing  
District

CHA-PEI

Shanghai  
Railroad Station  
Downtown Area

Yin-to  
Monastery

Hua-tung  
Tea-hut College

Chia-an  
Monastery

Children's  
Palace

Shanghai  
Industrial Exhibition

Former Home  
of Dr. Sun Yat-sen

Culture  
Square

Old Chinese  
Town

Chiang-nan  
Shipyard

Steel Plant

Chiao-tung  
University

Hsu-chia-hui  
Cathedral

First Medical  
College

Lung-hua  
Pagoda

Lu-chang-chou

(170km)

Lung-hua  
Airfield

Hung-chiao  
International  
Airport

Hsi-chiao  
Park

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CH'IAO

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CHIANG-WAN

P'ENG-P'U

Ch'ien-teng-tung  
District

YANG-SHU-P'U

CHA-PEI

Shanghai  
Railroad Station  
Downtown Area

P'U-TUNG

Chung-shan  
Park

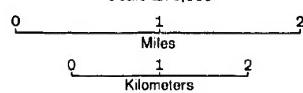
Ching-an  
Monastery

Shanghai  
Industrial Exhibition

Old Chinese  
Town

SHANGHAI

Scale 1:75,000



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# Downtown Shanghai

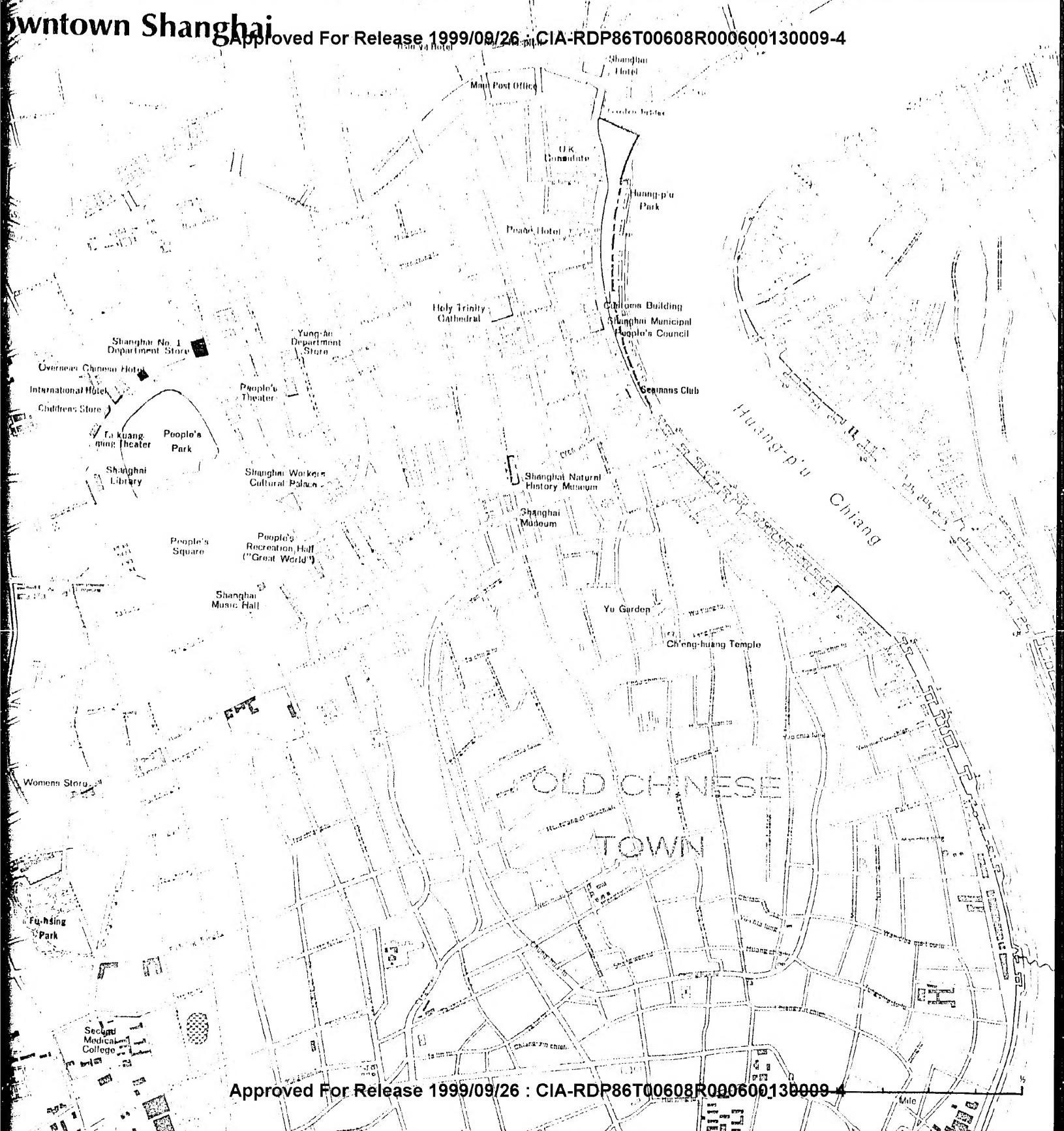
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